

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1002, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARIES OF
MASS MOVEMENT FOR SOVIET
JEWISH FREEDOM AND FREE-
DOM SUNDAY RALLY FOR SO-
VIET JEWRY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to throw my endorsement behind a resolution of great import—one that highlights the struggle of Jewish freedom in the former Soviet Union and pays tribute to one of the great civil rights movements of the last century. The will and forbearance of man and woman is best evinced when they are faced with adversity. Victims to a repressive anti-Zionist state that stripped its Jewish citizens of their rights to emigrate, be autonomous, and engage in religious prerogatives, Soviet Jewry channeled the strength of its community into one, harmonious dissenting voice. That takes awe-inspiring courage, and it more than merits our recognition today.

Only two decades have passed since a full quarter of a million of our frustrated brothers and sisters marched on Washington, demonstrating remarkable solidarity in numbers and unmatched political resolve. Only two decades before that, the seeds of focused defiance were being sown, a movement young in age but ripe at heart. And now, four decades later, the legacy of that effort has come to brilliant fruition. A renaissance of Jewish culture has cemented itself in the modern-day consciousness of the Russian people—and that is an exceptionally good thing.

Let us echo that spirit of unity, camaraderie, fraternity, and in one voice, honor their memories that inspire and move us to this day. Mazel Tov, my friends.

HONORING DR. HESHAM GAYAR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Hesham Gayar, the outgoing President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Dr. Gayar is to be honored at the annual President's Ball this Saturday, November 3rd.

Dr. Gayar studied medicine at the Alexandria Medical School. He completed residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York, and M.D. Anderson in Houston, where he was chief resident from 1985 to

1986. He completed a Fellowship in Clinical Oncology and Pediatric Oncology at Ohio State University Hospital. Relocating to Michigan, Dr. Gayar currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at McLaren Regional Medical Center and the Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Owosso Memorial Cancer Center.

Over the years Dr. Gayar has served as a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society from the Genesee County Medical Society, and as the Chair of the Board of the Community Wide Hospital Oncology program. He is the principal investigator for the Radiation Therapy Oncology group, works with the Southwest Oncology group, and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel project. He is also the former President of the Islamic Medical Association.

Dr. Gayar is committed to improving the quality of life in the larger community. Governor Granholm appointed him to the Board of the Commission of Arab Chaldean American Affairs. He serves on the Board of the American Arab Heritage Council of Flint, the Flint Islamic Center, and the Grand Blanc Islamic Center, he is the former Chair of the Genesee Academy Board of Directors, and is a former board member of the Islamic American University. In 2006 the American Arab Heritage Council named him "Physician of the Year." Dr. Gayar is married to Randa and they have four children, Omar, Adam, Lena and Kareem.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Dr. Hesham Gayar for his leadership to the Genesee County Medical Society. Both physicians and patients have benefited from his compassion and steadfastness. He brings empathy, dignity, and responsibility to every role he assumes. I wish him the best as he continues his service to the Flint community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1011 taken on Monday, October 29, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3867) to update and expand the procurement of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3867, Small Business Contracting Procurement Improvements Act of 2007.

Among the many improvements, this bill modernizes programs to increase opportunity to disadvantaged businesses that do not have proper access to the \$410 billion federal marketplace.

This bill expands procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal. Further, it creates penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by President. Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Additionally, the bill modernizes the 8(a) Business Development Program. This program is to single most important vehicle for minority business participation in federal contracting. The 8(a) program has contributed to the development of over 20,000 firms including many in Texas over the past two decades, and these firms have received almost \$100 billion in federal contracts.

Over 9,000 firms are currently participating in the 8(a) program. More than half of all federal minority business contracting is accomplished through the 8(a) program. Despite these impressive statistics, the program has not been revamped since 1988.

Earlier this year, I joined my colleague Rep. SILVESTRE REYES in sponsoring H.R. 1611, the 8(a) Modernization Act which was incorporated into this legislation.

I would like to thank the Chairwoman, Ms. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for her work not only for this legislation but also her long time advocacy for our Nation's small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH L.
GOTTESMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Ruth L. Gottesman and to congratulate her on becoming the first woman and the first faculty member to be elected Chairperson of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Board of Overseers.

As a premiere institution for medical education, basic research and clinical investigation, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine has produced more than 7,000 of our Nation's foremost clinicians, biomedical scientists, and medical educators. Among its pioneering educational initiatives, Einstein was among the first of the major medical schools to integrate bedside experience with learning, bringing first-year students into contact with patients and linking classroom study to case experience.